THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Citizens of the Scoule,
and of the House of Representatives:
Our devout gratitude is due to the Supreme
Being for having graciously continued to our
heloved country, through the vicissitudes of
another year, the invaluable blessings of
health, pienty and peace. Seldom has this
favored land been so generally exempted
from the ravages of disease, or the labor of
the hushandman more amply rewarded; and
never before have our relations with other
countries been placed on a more favorable
basis than that which they so happily occupy
at this critical conjucture in the affairs of the
world. A rigid and persevering abstinence
from all interference with the domestic and
political relations of other states, alike due to world. A rigid and persevering abstances from all interference with the domestic and political relations of other states, alike due to the genius and distinctive character of our government and to the principles by which it is directed; a faithful observance, in the management of our foreign relations, of the practice of speaking plainly, dealing justly, and requiring truth and justice in return, as the best conservative of the peace of nations a strict impartiality in our manifestations of friendship, in the commercial privileges we concede, and those we require from others; these accompanied by a disposition as prompt to maintain, in every emergency, our own rights, as we are from principle averse to the invasion of those of others, have given to our country and government a standing in the invasion of those of others, have given to our country and government a standing in the great family of nations, of which we have just cause to be proud, and the advantages of which are experienced by our eithers throughout every portion of the earth to which their enterprising and adventurous spirit may carry them. Few if any, remain insensible to the value of our friendship, or ignorant of the terms on which it can alone be preserved.

A series of questions of long standing, difficult in their adjustment, and important in

healt in their adjustment, and important in their consequences, in which the rights of our citizens and the honor of the country were deeply involved, have, in the course of se few years, (the most of them during the successful administration of my immediate prodecessor,) been brought to a satisfactory conclusion; and the most important of those remaining are, I am happy to believe, in a fair way of being speedily and satisfactorily

With all the powers of the world, our rela-With all the powers of the world, our relations are those of honorable peace. Since your adjournment nothing serious has occurred to interrupt or threaten this desirable harmony. If clouds have lowered above the other hemisphere, they have not east their portentous shadows upon our happy shores.—Bound by no entangling alliances, yet linked by a common nature and interest with the other sations of mankind, our aspirations are for the preservation of peace, in whose solid and civilizing triumphs all may participate with a generous emulation. Yet it behooves us to be prepared for any event and to be always ready to maintain those just and enlightened principles of national intercourse, for which this government has ever contended.—In the shock of contending empires, it is only by assuming a resolute bearing, and clothing themselves with defensive armor, that neutral nations can maintain their independentights.

control processing of parties. Which we should be a compared to the compared t

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many for the purpose of promoting the interests of our tobaceo trade.

The commissioners appointed under the
convention for the adjustment of claims of
citizens of the United States upon Mexico
having met and organized at Washington, in
August last, the papers in the possession of
the government, relating to those claims,
were communicated to the board. The
claims not embraced by that convention are
now the subject of negotiation between the
two governments, through the medium of
our minister at Mexico.

Nothing has occurred to disturb the harmony of our relations with the different governments of South America. I regret, however
to be obliged to inform you that the claims
of our citizens upon the late Republic of Cotumbia have not yet been satisfied by the
separate governments into which it has been
resolved.

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separate governments into which it has been resolved.

The charge d'affairs of Brazil having expressed the intention of his Government not to prolong the treaty of 1828, it will cease to to prolong the treaty of 1828, it will cease to to prolong the treaty of 1828, it will cease to to prolong the treaty of 1828, it will cease to to prolong the treaty of 1828, it will cease to to provide the commercial intercourse between the U. States and that vast empire will be no longer regulated by express stipulations.

It affords me pleasure to communicate to you that the Government of Chili has entered into an agreement to indemnify the claimants in the case of the Macedonian, for American property seized in 1819, and to add, that information has also been received which justifies the hope of an early adjustment of the remaining claims upon that government.

The commissioners appointed in pursuance of the convention between the United States and Texas, for marking the boundary between them, have accordingto the lost report received from our commissioner, surveyed and established the whole extent of the boundary north along the western bank of the Sabine river from its entrance into the fulf of Mexleo, to the thirty second degree of North latitude. The commission adjourned on the 16 of June last, to re-assemble on the first of November for the purpose of establishing accurately the intersection of the 32d degree of 16 of June last, to re-assemble on the first of November for the purpose of establishing ac-curately the intersection of the 32d degree of latitude with the western bank of the Sabine, and the meridian line thence to Red river. It is presumed that the work will be concluded

is presumed that the work will be concluded in the present season.

The present sound condition of their finances, and the success with which embarrassments in regard to them, at times apparently insurmountable, have been overcome, are matters upon which the people and government of the United States may well congratulate themselves. An overflowing treasury, however it may be regarded as an evidence of public prosperity, is seldem conducive to the permanent welfare of any people; and experience has demonstrated its incompatibility with the salutary action of political institutions like those of the United States. Our safest reliance for financial efficiency and indefest relionce for financial efficiency and inde-pendence has, on the contrary, been found to consist in ample resources unencumbered with debt; and, in this respect, the Federal Government occupies a singularly fortunate and truly enviable position.

When I entered upon the discharge of my official duties in March 1837, the act for the

the resources of many of the states, and the future industry of their citizens, been indefinitely merigaged to the subjects of European and the public lands, hereforder recommended, shall be adopted, and the new appears of the remedial measure, connected with the initial measure, connected with the properties of European and the public lands, hereforder recommended, shall be adopted, and the new appears of the states. The pretext which this relation affords to foreigners to sexualize the management of our domestic against force of Columbia, which mass soon be discharged is wholly exemplation, which mass soon be discharged is wholly exemplation, and the properties of European and the public of the state of the properties of the public revenue, and providing and definite opinion in regard to the support of the public revenue, and providing and its wholly exemplation and the properties of the propertie

from debt.

To maintain a distinction so desirable, and so honorable to our national character, should be an object of an earnest solicitude. Never should a free people, if it be possible to avoid it, expose themselves to the necessity of having to treat of the peace, the honor, or the safety of the republic, with the governments of foreign creditors, who however well disposed they may be to cultivate with using general friendly relations, are nevertheless, by the law of their own condition, made a hostile to the success and permanency of political institutions like ours. Most humiliating may be the embarrassments consequent upon such a condition. Another objection, scarcely less formidable, to the commencement of a new debt, is its inevitable tendency to increase in magnitude, and to foster national extravagance. He has been an unprofitable observer of events, who needs at this day to be admonished of the difficulties which a Government habitually dependant on loans to sustoin the ordinary expenditures, has to encounter in resisting the influences constantly extended in favor of a difficulties. on loans to sustain the ordinary expenditures, has to encounter in resisting the influences constantly exerted in favor of additional loans—by capitalists, who enrich themselves by Government securities for amounts much exceeding the money they actually advance—a prolific source of individual aggrandizement in all borrowing countries; by stockholders, who seek their gain by the rise and fall of public stocks, and by the selfish importunities of applicants for appropriations for works avowedly for the accommodation of the public, but the real objects of which are, too frequently the advancement of private interests.

ate interests.

The known necessity which so many of The known necessity which so many of the States will be under to impose taxes for the payment of the interest on their debts, furnishes an additional and very cogent reason why the Federal Government should refrain from creating a national debt, by which the people would be exposed to double taxation for a similar object. We possess within ourselves ample resources for every emergency; and we may be quite sure that our citizens, in no future exigency, will be unwilling to supply the government with all the means asked for the defence of the country. In time of peace there can at all events, be in time of peace there can at all events, be no justification for the creation of a perma-nent debt by the Federal Government. Its limited range of constitutional duties may certainly, under such circumstances, be per-formed without such a resort. It has, it is

ommended, anali be adopted, and the new appropriations by Congress shall not carry the expenditures beyond all of the official estimates.

The new system established by Congress for the safe keeping of the public money, prescribing the kind of currency to be received for the public revenue, and providing additional guards and securities against losses has now been several months in operation. Although it might be premature, upon an experience of such limited duration, to form a definite opinion in regard to the extent of its influences in correcting many evils under which the Federal Government and the country have hitherto suffered—especially those that have grown out of banking expansions, a depreciated currency, and official defalcations; yet it is but right to say that nothing has occurred in the practical operation of the system to weaken in the slightest degree, but much to strengthen the condent anticipations of its friends. The grounds of those have been heretofore so fully explained as to require no recapitulation. In respect to the facility and convenience it affords in conducting the public service, and the ability of the government to discharge through its agency every duty attendant on the collection, transfer and disbursement of the public money with promptitude and success, I can say with confidence, that the apprehensions of those who felt it to be their duty to oppose its adoption, have proved to be unfounded.—On the contrary this branch of the fiscal affairs of the government has been and it is believed may always be thus carried on with every desirable changes and improvements in the details of the system, without affecting any principles involved in it, will be submitted to you by the Secretary of the Treasury, and will, I am sure, receive at your hands that attention to which they may, on examination, be found to be entitled.

I have deemed this brief summary of our fiscal affairs necessary to the due performance of a duty, especially enjoined upon me by the constitution.

fiscal affairs necessary to the due performance of a duty, especially enjoined upon me by the constitution. It will serve, also to illustrate more fully the principles by which I have been guided in reference to two which I have been guided in reference to two contested points in our public policy, which were earliest in their development, and have been more important in their consequences, than any that have arisen under our complicated and difficult, yet admirable system of government. I allude to a national debt and a national bank.

It was in these that the political contest by which the country has been agitated ever since the adoption of the constitution, in a great measure originated; and there is too much reason to apprehend that the conflicting interests and opposing principles thus mar-

interests and opposing principles thus mar shalled will continue as heretofore to produce similar, if not aggravated, consequences.

Coming into office the declared enemy of both, I have carnestly endeavored to prevent

a resort to either.

The consideration that a large public debt The consideration that a large public debt affords an apology, and produces, to some degree, a necessity also, for resorting to a system and extent of taxation, which is not only oppressive throughout, but likewise so apt to lead, in the end, to the commission of that most odious of all offences against the principles of republican government—the prostitution of political power, conferred for the general benefit, to the agrandizement of particular classes, and the gratification of individual cupidity—is alone sufficient, independently of the weighty objections which have already been urged, to render its creation and existence the source of bitter and unappeasable discord.

If we add to this, its inevitable tendency to produce and foster extravagagt expendi-

ducted upon the principles I have stated.

In lieu of a national bank, or a dependance upon banks of any description, for the management of our fiscal affairs, I recommend the adoption of the system which is now in successful operation. That system affords every requisite facility for the transaction of the pecuniary concerns of the Government, will it is confidently anticipated, produce in other respects many of the benefits which have been from time to time expected from the creation of a national bank, but which have never been realized; avoid the manifold evils inseparable from such an institution; diminish to a greater extent than could be accomplished by any other measure of reform, the patronage of the Federal Government—a wise policy in all Governments, but more especially so in one like ours, which works well only in proportion as it is made to rely for its support upon the unbiassed and unadulterated opinions of its constituents; do away, forever all dependance on corporate bodies, either in raising, collecting, safe-keeping, or disbursing the public revenues; and place the Government equally above the temptation of fostering a dangerous and unconstitutional institution at home, or the necessity of adapting the public revenues; and place the Government equally above the temptation of fostering a dangerous and unconstitutional institution at home, or the necessity of adapting the public revenues; and place the Government equally above the temptation of fostering a dangerous and unconstitutional institution at home, or the necessity of adapting the public revenues; and place the fore the transactions of the towerment itself on a solid basis, giving and receiving in all casters as a like the discovernment is placed by excesses in trade, banking and credits of all kinds, was to place the busis master to waste of the Government to sail kinds, was to place the busis of all kinds, was to place the busis as fold basis, giving and receiving in all casters of a kind of the capturing in others that delivation of

the operation of the laws as the condition of the country, as without the creation of a permanent public debt, or incurring any liability other than such as the ordinary resources of the government will speedily discharge, and without the agency of a national bank.

If this view of the proceedings of the government for the period it embraces, he warranted by the facts as they are known to exist; if the army and navy have been sustained to the full extent authorized by law, and which Congress deemed sufficient for the defence of the country and the protection of its rights and its honor: if its civil and diplomatic service has been equally sustained; if its rights and its honor: if its civil and diplo-matic service has been equally sustained; if ample provision has been made for the ad-ministration of justice and the execution of the laws; if the claims upon public gratitude in behalf of the soldiers of the Revolution have been promptly met and faithfully dis-charged; if the public faith has at all times and every where, been most scrupulously maintained by a prompt discharge of the nu-merous, extended and diversified claims of the Treasury;—if all these great and permanent objects, with many others that might be sta-ted have, for a series of years, marked by pe-culiar obstacles and difficulties, been succes-fully accomplished without a resort to a per-manent debt, or the aid of a national bank; have we not a right to expect that a policy, have we not a right to expect that a policy, the object of which has been to sustain the public service independently of either of these fruitful sources of discord, will receive the final sanction of a people whose unbiased and fairly elicited judgment upon public affairs ever which the same public affairs is ever which the same public and the same public affairs is ever which the same public and the same public a

poses for the attainment of which the Federal Government was instituted have not been lost sight of. Intrusted only with certain limited powers cautiously enumerated distinctly speci-fied, and defined with a precision and clear-ness which would seem to dely misconstruc-ness which would seem to dely misconstrucmed, and defined with a precision and clearness which would seem to defy misconstruction, it has been my constant aim to confine anyself within the limits so clearly marked out, and so carefully guarded. Having always been of opinion that the best preservative of the union of the States is to be found in a total abstinence from the exercise of all doubtful powers on the part of the Federal Government, rather than in attempts to assume them by a loose construction of the constitution, or an ingenious perversion of its words, I have endeavored to avoid recommending any ness which would seem to dely misconsisted to the confine topy, it has been my constant aim to confine on the constant aim to confine on the constant aim to carefully guarded. Having always been of opinion that the best preservation of the states is to be found in a total abstinence from the exercise of all doubtful powers on the part of the Federal Government, tathet than in attempts to assume them by a loose construction of the constitution of the constitution

or the necessity of adapting the policy to the views and interests of a still more formidable money-power abroad.

It is by adopting and carrying out these principles under circumstances the mos ardous and discouraging that the attempt has been made thus far successfully to demonstrate to the people of the United States that a national bank at all times, and a national debt, except it be incurred at a period when the honor and safety of the nation demand the temporary sacrifice of a policy which should only be abandoned in such exigencies are not merely unnecessary but in direct and deadly hostility to the principles of their government and to their own permanent welfare.

The progress made in the developement of these positions, appears in the preceding sketch of the past history and present state of the financial concerns of the Federal Government. The facts there stated, fully authorize the assertion, that all the purposes for which government was instituted have been accomplished during four years of greater percuniary embarrassment than were ever before experienced in time of peace and in the face of opposition as formidable as any that was the condition of the even of the government was instituted have been accomplished during four years of greater percuniary embarrassment than were ever before experienced in time of peace and in the face of opposition as formidable as any that was the condition of the end, no better results than to re-produce the operation of the laws as the condition of the end, no better results than to re-produce the operation of the laws as the condition of the end no better results than to reso the presentations of the form of the povernment will speedily discharge, and without the agency of a national bank.

It is becleved by judicious State slegislation and what is not less abulary results, mided by judicious State slegislation and what is not less abulary excults, made by judicious State slegislation and what is not less abulary excults, made that, to the policy of the American p

A report from the Secretary of War, presenting a detailed view of the affairs of that department, accompanies this com-

munication.

The desultory duties connected with the removal of the Indians in which the army has been constantly engaged on northern and western frontiers, and in Florida have rendered it impracticable to carry into full effect the plan recommended by the Sec-retary for improving its discipline. In every instance where the regiments have been concentrated they have made great progress; and the best results may be anticipated from a continuance of this system. During the last season a part of the troops have been employed in removing Indians from the interior to the territory assigned them in the west; a duty which they have performed efficiently and with praiseworthy humanity; and that portion of them which have been stationed in Florida continued active operations there throughout the

Summer.

The policy of the United States in regard to the Indians of which a succinct

mand, the murder of their agent, General Thom-on, and other acts of cruel treach-

the support of the combination of the fluences by which it was surrounded, it coilate its charter, and set the laws at defiance with impunity; and when, too, it could produce the surrounder of the combination of powers can never the surrounder of the combination of powers can never the source of incurable weakness the paths of the constitution of the source of incurable weakness of the great aggregate of an idea strength, and whose voluntary at the surrounder of the continuous products of the public service to such objects only as the surrounder of the surrou

and enduring courage; the army has been constaut-ly furnished with supplies of every description; and we must look for the causes which have so long procrastinated, the issue of the contest, in the vast extent of the theatre of hostilities, the almost insurmountable obstacles presented by the wily character

of the savages.

The sites for marine hospitals on the rivers and lakes, which I was authorised to select and cause to be purchased, have all been designated; but the appropriation not proving sufficient, conditional ar-rangements only have been made for their acquisition. It is for congress to decide whether those conditional purchases shall be sauctioned, and the humane intentions of the law carried into

The navy, as will appear from the accompanying report of the Secretary, has been usefully and honorably employed in the protection of our commerce and citizens in the Mediterranean, the Pamerce and critzens in the Mediterranean, the Fa-cific, on the coast of Brazil, and in the Gulf of Mexico. A small squadron, consisting of the fri-gate Constellation and the sloop-of-war Boston, under Commodore Kearney, is now on its way to China and the Indian Seas, for the purpose of at-tending to our interests in that quarter; and commander Aulick, in the sloop-of-war Yorktown, has been instructed to visit the Sandwich and Socito visit the Sandwich and Society Islands, the coasts of New-Zealand, and Japan, together with other ports and islands frequented by our whale ships, for the purpose of giving them countenance and protection, should they be required. Other smaller vessels have been, and still are, employed in processing the ployed in prosecuti g the surveys of the coast of the United States, directed by various acts of Congress; and those which have been completed will shortly be laid before you.

The exploring expedition, at the latest date, was

preparing to leave the bay of Islands. New-Zealand, in further prosection of objects which have, thus far, been successfully accomplished. The discovery of a new continent, which was first seen in latitude 66 2 south, longitude 154 27 east, and afterwards in latitude 66 31 south, longitude 153 40 east, by Lieutenants Wilkes and Hudson, for an extent of 1800 miles, but on which they were prevented from landing by vast bodies of ice which encompassed it, is one of the most honorable results of the enterprise. Lieutenant Wilkes bears testimony to the zeal and good conduct of his officers and men; and it is but justice to that officer to state that he appears to have performed the duties assigned him with an ardor, ability, and perseverance, which give every assurance of an honorable issue to the

undertaking.

The report of the post master general, herewith transmitted, will exhibit the service of that department the last year, and its present condition. transportation has been maintained during the year to the full extent authorized by the existing laws; some improvements have been effected, which the public interest seems argually to demand, but not involving any material additional expenditure; the contractors have generally performed their engage-ments with fidelity : the post masters, with few exments with thermy; the post masters, with few ex-ceptions, have rendered their accounts and paid their quarterly balances with promptitude; and the whole service of the department has main-tained the efficiency for which it has for several

the final sanction of a people whose unbiased and fairly elicited judgment upon public affairs sever ultimately wrong.

That embarrassments in the pecuniary concerns of individuals, of unexampled extent and duration, have recently existed in this as in other commercial nations, is undoubtedly true. To suppose it necessary now, to trace in these reverses to their sources, would be a rediffection on the intelligence of my fellow citizens. Whatever may have been the obscurity in which the subject was involved during the earlier stages of the revulsion, there cannot now be many by whom the whole question is not fally understood.

Not deeming it within the constitutional powers of the General Government to repair in powers of the General Government to repair in powers of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the commenced by the Indians in the power of the General Government to repair in the commenced by the Indians of which I a succinct the wisdom and expediency of which I as for the the opportunity time. The case of the general revenues, the excess having the necessarity the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Government to repair in the power of the General Governm

own homes in the West. In the face of their authors which the Federal overnment was instituted have not been lost ght of. Intrusted only with certain limited wers, cautiously enumerated, distinctly specified, and defined with a precision and clear, and defined with a precision and clear, and defined with a precision and clear.